

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Office Action dated September 27, 2004. Claims 1-105 were examined in the Office Action. Claims 23, 24, 39, 40, 49, 50, and 80-105 have been previously withdrawn. Applicants are canceling claims 1-5, 7-11, 13-22, 25, 32-34, 36-37, 41-44, and 46-47, without prejudice in the present Response, thereby leaving claims 6, 12, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 38, 45, 48 and 51-70 pending. Applicants reserve the right to file the subject matter in the cancelled claims in a continuation application. The pending claims are presently submitted as shown in the present Amendment and Response, allowance of these claims is respectfully solicited.

A. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102 Addressed

Claims 1-5, 8-11, 13, 15-19, 21, 22, 25, 32-34, 37, 41-44, and 47 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Uckert et al (US Patent Application 2003/0027934). In order to facilitate the allowance of claims 6, 12, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 38, 45, 48, and 51-79, Applicants have cancelled claims 1-5, 8-11, 13, 15-19, 21, 22, 25, 32-34, 37, 41-44, and 47, rendering the rejection with respect to these claims moot. Note that Applicant reserves the right to file the subject matter of these cancelled claims in a continuation application.

B. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103 Addressed

Claims 7, 14, 20, 36, and 46 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Uckert in view of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made. In order to facilitate the allowance of claims 6, 12, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 38, 45 and 51-79, Applicants have cancelled claims 7, 14, 20, 36, and 46, rendering the rejection with respect to these claims moot. Note that Applicant reserves the right to file the subject matter of these cancelled claims in a continuation application.

C. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated that claims 6, 12, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 38, 45 and 48 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The amendment above and these remarks are believed to put these claims in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

In addition, the Examiner indicated that claims 51-79 are allowed.

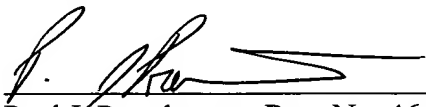
SUMMARY

Claims 6, 12, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 38, 45, 48 and 51-79 of this application are pending. In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance, and prompt allowance is respectfully solicited.

This amendment is believed to be responsive to all points in the Office Action and is believed to put the case in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any remaining questions, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number below to expeditiously resolve such concerns.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 04-1415.

Dated this 17th day of December, 2004 Respectfully submitted:


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